

Medical students at UTMB have the opportunity to earn the **Master of Public Health degree** through a five-year dual degree program. MPH training provides select SOM students with the knowledge, skills, and values needed to succeed in careers that bridge medicine and public health.

Public Health Is...

What we as a society do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy.

Institute of Medicine (1988)

Our MPH Program includes coursework and learning experiences that prepare graduates to **practice evidence-based and community-oriented public health** in a range of clinical, occupational, and community settings.



MD-MPH students were among participants in the UTMB-sponsored Field Epidemiology course in Peru during summer 2010. Pictured, students looking for mosquito larvae.

The **dual degree plan** combines one year of MPH training with the four years of medical education. The recommended plan is for the MPH year to be scheduled between years 3 and 4 of medical school, with three terms (one year) of graduate school enrollment starting in late August (School of Medicine period 3). USMLE Step II examinations must be completed before graduate school enrollment begins.

MPH faculty review medical school transcripts to identify possible dual credits in the SOM curriculum. After completing the MPH, students will receive credit for three periods of electives and selectives toward year 4 of medical school.

During the MPH year, students complete **required courses** in the core knowledge areas of public health—biostatistics, epidemiology, environmental health, health policy and management, and social and behavioral sciences—and additional required courses relevant to public health practice and research.

MPH Degree Requirements

- 42 total credit hours
- Required courses
 - Biostatistics
 - Introduction to Epidemiology
 - Environmental Health & Toxicology
 - Health Policy & Management
 - Health Promotion: Social & Behavioral Approaches
 - Epidemiological Methods
 - Prevention & Public Health
 - Ethics
 - choice of:* Public Health Law
or Advanced Business Management
- Elective courses
- Capstone (applied) or thesis (research) project
- Mentored public health practice experience

MD-MPH Dual Degree Program



The family atmosphere of the MPH program really stands out. The small class size gives you a chance to know your classmates, as well as receive personalized attention and mentorship opportunities from faculty. All program faculty are engaged, open and down-to-earth.

Miles Farr, MD/MPH Student

The capstone (or thesis) project and the practice experience provide students with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills obtained in coursework to **public health practice and research**. To complete these projects, students work with public health professionals in **community based settings** such as governmental health agencies, nonprofit social service organizations, worksite wellness programs, and health clinics providing care for the medically underserved.

Our graduate education environment provides a unique **interdisciplinary and interprofessional** experience for MPH students. Teaching faculty members come from a range of clinical and population health disciplines and have varied areas of research expertise.

Our MPH Program originally was developed to serve the Preventive Medicine Residencies at UTMB. These MPH graduates have gone on to **successful careers** in academic medicine, aerospace medicine, occupational medicine, and governmental public health practice. The first cohort of MD-MPH students enrolled in academic year 2009-2010.

Application for the MPH program is through the Graduate School of Biomedical Sciences (GSBS). Applications must be completed before June 1 for fall enrollment. To apply, medical students must complete the GSBS application, provide three letters of reference, submit a current UTMB transcript, and pay the appropriate application fee.

The application essay and reference letters should specifically address the student's interest in public health and ability to complete the degree. Personal interviews with the MPH Admissions Committee will be scheduled. The online application process can be accessed at: www.utmb.edu/onlineapp.

Tuition support is available on a competitive basis. To be considered for this support, students should complete their applications by April 15.

The UTMB MPH Program is fully **accredited** by the Council on Education for Public Health. Graduates are eligible to become Certified in Public Health (CPH) through the National Board of Public Health Examiners.

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